

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy

Land Acquisition Project Profile

Program Name: Land Acquisition

Project Name: Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (including Ten Thousand Islands NWR)

Project Name Synonyms:

Project ID (Map Label): Florida Panther NWR; Ten Thousand Islands NWR

Overlapping Project(s):

Primary SFER-related Objective: 2.A.1

Project synopsis: The unique & environmentally sensitive Fakahatchee Strand area has been designated Critical Habitat for the endangered Florida panther. The Florida panther is one of the most endangered mammals in the Nation, with perhaps only 20 to 30 individuals inhabiting the Big Cypress-Everglades region. The target lands are valuable for flood water retention, water purification, & aquifer recharge, while providing high quality habitat for a wide variety of flora & fauna in addition to the panther. Most of the area is relatively inaccessible & is one of the few remaining retreats for the Florida black bear. The area is diverse & interesting botanically containing large oaks, maples, cabbage palms, & a diversity of tropical trees which form a dense canopy. The increasing human population in S FL with its consequent urban expansion is jeopardizing the Strand's ecological integrity. Thus, essential habitat for the survival of the Florida panther is being threatened by conversion for agricultural projects, residential development, oil field activities, lumbering, & road construction. Immediate controls are needed to minimize the increasing number of encroachments. The ecosystem within the target boundary is absolutely essential to the survival of the FL panther.

Project Sponsorship: Federal

Land Acquisition Funding Type: Federal

Land Acquisition Funds Source: LWCF

Agency Responsible for Acquiring the Land: FWS

Land Acquisition Program(s): LWCF

Land Managing Agency: FWS

Funding Partner(s):

Land Acquisition Schedule

Initiate Acquisition	Conclude Acquisition	Date Needed for Restoration
1989		

Project Acreage/Progress

Total size	Acquired previous yr.	Acquired all years	Remaining to acquire
61,563		61,563	0

Estimated Project Requirements - Land Acquisition only (in thousands of dollars)

Agency	Closed through Sept. 2002	Closed in 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Cost of Remaining Acres	Real Estate & Associated Costs
Federal	\$ 10,233	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,233
State	\$ 449	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 449
Tribal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TBD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 10,682	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,682

Land Cost Estimation Method: FMV

Degree of Ownership desired: Fee Simple

Comments:

Hyperlink(s): <http://floridapanther.fws.gov/>

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